

WIFE SAYS WEED ISN'T A SUICIDE

Young Woman Declares Husband Couldn't Have Entered Into a Pact to Die with His Friend Benjamin A. Riley.

HE AVERS THEY PLANNED TO END LIFE TOGETHER.

According to Riley, He and Weed Were Disappointed and Came Here from Massachusetts Home to Take Poison.

In spite of the statement of Benjamin A. Riley, of Boston, who is a prisoner at Bellevue Hospital, charged with attempted suicide, that he and his intimate friend, Orestes A. Weed, of Brookline, entered into a suicide pact, which resulted in the death of Weed and the serious poisoning of Riley by morphine, Mrs. Weed, wife of the dead man declared today:

"I am sure there is a mistake. My husband did not commit suicide. There was no reason for his having done so, and I am certain that he did not."

When we registered at the Grand Union Hotel on Saturday," said Riley in his confession, "we had about decided to pull off the trick on Christmas. We thought a death celebration would be very appropriate. Then we determined that we would have a good time before we died."

"I am very sorry Weed is dead. I am glad I am living, though. I was sorry I had taken the drug a few minutes after I swallowed it. Weed was the best friend I had, and his death is a sad blow to me."

Riley is in Bellevue Hospital. If his condition will permit he will be arraigned in police court to-day. He is held a prisoner, charged with attempting suicide.

Mrs. Weed, the young widow, is at the home of her sister in apartments at No. 60 West Street. She will start for Boston with the body of her husband to-day. She is emphatic in her declaration that her husband did not commit suicide.

Weed comes of a family that has figured often in tragic and romantic events. His father, Isaac Weed, died at the family home in Wilmington, Del., three years ago of gas asphyxiation. In sorrow a son-in-law of Isaac Weed killed himself.

Conkling Episode Revisited.

When Roscoe Conkling was driven from Cananahet, the \$100,000 summer home of former Gov. William Sprague, the owner, at the muzzle of a shotgun, years ago it brought to the surface the story of unhappy Mrs. Kate Chase Sprague. Mrs. Sprague got a divorce from her husband and the blighting of Conkling's political career followed. Former Gov. Sprague, broken in purse and in social position, went to Virginia to rest. At Staunton he met Mrs. Irene Calvert, a widow, the sister of Orestes A. Weed. They were married in 1882, hardly ten months after Mrs. Kate Sprague had obtained her divorce.

They returned to Cananahet and Sprague tried to revive his former splendors. Weed, soon figured in a second shot gun episode. Former Governor Sprague ordered him from his home pointing the gun at him. Weed had been paying attention to Sprague's seventeen-year-old daughter.

This episode was followed by the marriage of Miss Avis Weed, a sister of Mrs. Sprague, to young William Sprague, son of Gov. Sprague and his first wife Kate Chase Sprague. Young Sprague's wife later obtained a divorce. William Sprague, a few years later killed himself in Seattle. His former wife, Orestes Weed's sister, married Col. Gerritt Smith Wheaton, of Washington, who is connected with the Standard Oil group of millionaires.

Sister Elop.

Then Miss Juliet Weed, another sister of Weed, eloped from Narragansett Pier with a married man, Edward S. Eaton, a young Lynn, Mass., electrician. Weed figured in several wild stories of midnight robberies at Narragansett Pier, and it was once said that he was to marry Miss Eugenie C. Maginnis, a rich St. Louis girl. He was once robbed in St. Louis while paying attention to this heiress.

Several years ago Weed eloped from this city to Providence, R. I., where he married Miss Katherine Rumfoord de Houliac, of Hillsboro, N. C. The couple had met at Narragansett Pier, at Gov. Sprague's home.

Mrs. Irene Sprague, the former Governor's wife, is still living in Rhode Island. A year or two ago she sang in an Edouard Molenhauer concert in Boston with marked success. Before her marriage to former Gov. Sprague she was studying for the operatic stage in Paris.

A peculiar thing in the death of Weed is that members of his family in this city say that they never heard of Riley, although he says in his statement to Crocker School that he is known Weed from boyhood. Riley will be held on a charge of attempting suicide and until Detective Murtha and Kelly of the Grand Central Police Precinct can investigate the story.

The body of Weed will be given to his wife to-day. The interment will be made at Narragansett Pier, and will be thirty-two years old, and Riley is thirty-three.

CHARGE NOT TO PRACTICE.

Too Old to Resume Pleading Before the Bar, Ambassador Says.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—Joseph H. Choate, the American Ambassador here, does not intend to take up law practice when he returns to New York, as reported in the press here.

He considers he has been away too long from the bar to resume practice at his age.

Winding Up 1904 at The Big Store With Great Energy.



A Banner Year at The Big Store.

WE'RE too busy planning for the future to indulge in much retrospection. But 1904 has been such a wonderful year that we feel we would be doing the public and ourselves an injustice did we not say a fleeting word in its behalf.

The year began with great energy; and there has never been any cessation. Winter died, Spring was born, Summer came, Fall succeeded, to be followed by the present Winter. Each season was buoyantly, unprecedentedly busy. There was no period of lethargy; we don't permit that.

As a good many people have said: "Yours is a store that does things."

Thanks. We try to do them well. We try to make your shopping here not only interesting but profitable—a happy combination, most shoppers declare.

Always something new. And so we wind up 1904 in a manner thoroughly befitting the aggressive and progressive policy of the store.

Bargains, BIG BARGAINS, unusually good bargains, are to be found all over the store—on every floor, in every section. 1904 is passing out in a most striking manner.

Candies & Favors For New Year Festivities.

Candies.	Favors.
A NO. 1 AMERICAN MIXED, lb. 10c	PAPER BOYLES, doz. 5c to 50c
PURE SUGAR FRENCH CREAMS, 10c	PAPER NATIVES, doz. 20c
CHOICE MIXTURE, consisting of chocolate, caramel, coconut, etc., 15c	SNAPPING VOTERS, 7c to 20c
PANCA BONBON AND CHOCOLATE MIXTURE, consisting of assorted chocolates, 15c	FRINGED MOTTO PAPERS, pkgs. 4c
PANCA BONBON AND CHOCOLATE MIXTURE, consisting of assorted chocolates, 15c	ROSE MOTTO PAPERS, pkgs. 4c
	MOTTO VERSES, sheets, 10c
	BLACK AND WHITE CHINA DOLLS, for motto papers, doz. 10c

Jewelry Prices Cut.

An Important Post-Holiday Clearance.

Many people make a practice of going to the Siegel Cooper Jewelry Store right after the Christmas season because they know they are sure to obtain many choice bargains in handsome jewelry. To reduce certain lines and to eliminate others, we cut prices in many instances in half.

Any one will make a pretty New Year's gift.

RHINESTONE—Fine cut and in all sizes and designs. The following are a few of our special leaders for this sale:	BRILLIANT BOXES in silk and gold, each containing a pair of earrings and a pair of rings, 25c
BAR PINN—Set in sterling silver, at 50c; others, according to number of stones, up to 3.25	SMALL HORN SHOES—Set with fine stones in sterling silver, 2.25
CHANCES—Rhinestone Crosses, fine stones and set in sterling silver, 4.00	CHATELAIN BAGS—Fine mesh with metal, pretty designs, to close out at 75c
SMALL HANTS, entirely covered with fine rhinestones, suitable to wear as charm or brooch, 3.50; others 11.25	Others up to 12.00
UPH—Heavy gold and silver rings, designs, all sizes; selection, great value, up to \$1.50 and \$3.00; to close out at 3.00	Others up to 8.00
HAIR BARRETTERS—Fine stones, set in sterling silver, at 3.25	

Table Silverware.

Featuring Some Extra Good Bargains.

In adjusting the Table Silverware stocks after the Christmas rush a number of particularly good bargains have come to light. These we offer tomorrow at prices so greatly reduced that it is safe to predict that the demand will be immediate. Here is the list:

One of the best bargains in the offering is this HIGHLY POLISHED TEA SET—Silver on white metal, 4 pieces.

3.95

COLONIAL PATTERN TEA SETS—4 pieces, with Spoon Holder and Creamer; gold lined; at choice of 2 styles.

6.75

Rogers' All Wares.

ROGERS' SILVER PLATE ON NICKEL SILVER—2 Fancy designs to make up a set, from 1.00

TEA SPOONS, in sets of 6, at .50

TABLE SPOONS, in sets of 6, 1.00

FORKS, in sets of 6, at .100

KNIFE SETS SPOONS OR FORKS, .90

PIANOS

Special Holiday Week Offer.

CALDWELL PIANO	BROOKS PIANO
\$250.00	\$350.00
For	For
\$185.00	\$225.00

Terms: No Money Down.

ON CALDWELL PIANOS \$6.00 MONTHLY, BE GINNING IN JANUARY.

ON BROOKS PIANOS \$7.00 MONTHLY, BE GINNING IN JANUARY.

Pianos Ready for Delivery

2,000 Men's Shirts.

Stiff Bosom and Negligee Shirts.

Broken lots. That's why they're priced so low for rapid clearance. All good qualities; and all sizes in one or the other. Made to be sold at 50c. to 75c.

Men's 4-Ply Linen Collars.

Slightly imperfect; so slightly, in fact, that their wearing quality isn't hurt a bit. Laundered, they're practically perfect. Price.

25c 5c

The White Sale. Here's the News For Friday.

WOMEN'S UNDERMUSLINS.

Women's Corset Covers. Women's Drawers. Women's Undershirts. Women's Petticoats. Women's Chemises. Misses' & Children's Undermuslins.

More News of the Shoe Sale.

The Big Shoe Store Crowded with Customers.

Because this is a clearance sale do not think that every pair of Shoes you see has been on sale before. Not a bit of it!

Most of the Shoes are out of their boxes for the first time. Lots that are ready to reinforce the others have not yet been unpacked. And so you see selections are first-class; just as good practically as if you went into a big factory and was told to take your pick.

Men's Box Calf Shoes. Men's Felt Slippers. Men's Leather Slippers. Men's Arctics. Boys' and Youths' Shoes. Girls' Kidskin Shoes. Women's Dongola Kid Lace Shoes. Women's Sample Shoes. Women's House Slippers. Children's Leggings.

Women's Runabout Skirts.

Not a discarded style in the showing, but every garment steadfastly in keeping with the season's dictates and demands. Price quoted is no criterion of the value—merely a price that will hurry away the stock in compliance with the end-of-the-year policy of the store.

Melton Cloth, Mannish Mixtures or Panama Cloth in Varied Colors.

In Melton Cloth choice may be had in black, blue, light gray or Oxford; in Mannish Mixtures either brown, blue or gray, or black or blue in Panama Cloth.

Five gored styles, some prettily corded, and all with foot kilts and inverted plait back. Carefully tailored and perfect hanging. Some are finished with tabs and self-covered buttons; regularly up to \$4.50. Special, to-morrow.

2.95

For Girls and Misses.

Frothy Russian Dresses, Box Coats and Walking Skirts.

We're closing the year in this splendidly stocked section with an exceptionally strong list of good values. We quote four in proof of this for to-morrow:

1.95 FOR GIRLS' RUSSIAN DRESSES of novelty cloth, prettily trimmed.	2.50 FOR MISSES' WALKING SKIRTS, fancy Scotch tweeds, 12-14, good explained model.
5.00 FOR GIRLS' FULL-LENGTH BOX COATS of fine lacy or zibeline; cape elaborately trimmed.	7.50 FOR MISSES' BOX COATS of zibeline, satin lined.

Women's House Garments.

At the Season's Lowest Prices.

This offering of Women's Eiderdown Dressing Sacques and Bath Robes and Lawn Kimono Sacques, Gowns and Percale Wrappers is prepossessing in every essential qualification.

Of Eiderdown. Of Lawn. Of Percale.

Carpets and Rugs.

AXMINSTER CARPETS—High-class Axminster Carpets, in all the latest designs, with borders to match. They are worth grades at \$1.25; we are selling them at 90c.

WOOL VELVET CARPETS—Unexcelled for durability, which fact gives them popularity. The complete good room, hall and stair effects, \$1.00 grade; 75c.

WOOL PRINTED VELVET CARPETS—An excellent opportunity to secure choice of about 20 patterns, with or without borders, neat designs and color, 60c.

TAPESTRY BRUSSELS CARPETS—High-grade qualities of this most popular carpet covering. A limited number of 9x12, regular \$27.50, special, \$21.50. 9x12, regular \$24.50, special, \$19.25.

Body Brussels Rugs—About 25 rugs to choose from. A limited number of 9x12, regular \$27.50, special, \$21.50. 9x12, regular \$24.50, special, \$19.25.

New Waists. Fresh 1905 Designs.

Broad in scope of styles and uncommonly attractive in range of prices. This showing is manifestly an advance 1905 display. For popular pricing Waists the six models quoted are attractive.

"Iris" Waists 1.00

"White Rose" Waists 1.25

White Lawn Waists 1.50

White Lawn Waists 1.95

White Lawn Waists 2.25

White Lawn Waists 2.75